

January Meeting

Friday, January 19
7:30 pm

*Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane
Lafayette, CA*

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Editor's Exciter

by Jeremiah R. Blasi, K6BQ

Another year is gone! 2006 was an exciting year of growth, both as an amateur radio operator, and in many other aspects of my life. I hope you experienced similar opportunities over the year!

As the year closed, the FCC surprised many of us by repealing the Morse code requirement for all amateur licensees. Actually, I was not surprised that they made this change, simply that it came so quickly. Many of us expected that it would be a little longer before this announcement was made.

There has been so much debate over this issue during that past few years, and understandably so. "It all started with CW," so it is a very important part of our heritage as radio enthusiasts. But it is not lost—we still have the privilege to use this fine mode of communication!

As for myself, I will say that I am somewhat disappointed in this decision.

President's QRM

by Marty Heyman, W6MDH



Happy holidays to all. And to those of you who missed the holiday dinner, you missed a good one. More about that elsewhere in the Carrier. We got New Years presents from the FCC as well with a belated ruling on Morse Code and other clarifications. It's almost like they were sitting there squirming at the Pacifcon banquet when Joel Harrison (W6ZN, the President of the ARRL) complained about their lack of responsiveness. That means that our

I would personally have desired that the FCC keep the Morse code requirement for at least the highest license class. I believe the ARRL also made this proposal to the FCC.

However, as they say, what's done is done. So let's stop fretting about it, and just get on with operating!

Despite my personal disappointment, I can definitely see a bright side to this decision. I know many Technician class operators who would make a fine contribution to HF communications that, for one reason or another, have not learned "The Code." Now, they will eagerly pursue their General class upgrade, and become valuable members of the HF world!

We who have already earned our higher class licenses with CW must set aside our own prejudices, and *elmer* and encourage those who desire to upgrade.

You who are now preparing to upgrade,

General Class licensing class will probably be among the first no-code Generals! If you've been waiting, now's the time, come get your General and find out what all the fun's about on HF.

The holiday season saw more trips up the hill. It seems the ATV crew finally has all the gremlins chased out and recent reports sound like that's running the way you'd like. At the same time, we got the internet connection updated so there's better connectivity to our Echolink/IRLP computer and the repeater controller from off the hill. That should make it easier to maintain and backup.

Other than that, we've all been enjoying the season. Hope you did and we'll see you at the upcoming meetings. ☐

don't be discouraged by those who tell you that the system is being "dumbed-down." It really doesn't matter—the decision has been made and will not be undone—so just go to it!

The ARRL has noted that requests for both upgrade and new license material has drastically increased since the announcement was made, so hopefully we'll see a great increase in skilled amateur radio operators. Will we get operators with the 'CB' mentality? Probably, but they already exist. Just listen to 75 meters for a

while, and even on some of the local repeaters, and you'll hear plenty of poor operating practice! But if we do our job, we can encourage all to become skilled, respectful amateurs.

Maybe in twenty years, I'll be one of the 'old-timers' who says, in a gruff voice, "I remember the old days, when I had to do it the **hard** way..." but I sure hope not! ☐

**"We can encourage
all to become
skilled, respectful
amateurs"**

Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX

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(925) 288-1730



The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and space is available. All material must be submitted to the editor by the last day of the month prior to publication. Material is accepted on a first-in, first-out basis. Articles and other material may be submitted via Internet email to carrier@mdarc.org or delivered to the editor at the address listed in the club roster. Material will be accepted in plain ASCII or rich text format (RTF). Material may also be submitted as hardcopy.

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MDARC Holiday Party


December 8, 2006

by Dick Schulze, AA6DL

Our annual party was another enjoyable meeting of a nice group of people. By default, our president Marty Heyman, W6MDH, with a lot of assistance from his charming wife, Fern, happily assumed responsibility for everything, arranging for our caterer, sending notices, receiving reservations, collecting the funds and providing copious appetizers. Each table even had a poinsettia. In keeping with tradition, awards were given to members for outstanding service.

Tim Barrett, K6BIV, received an award for installing the first D-Star repeater in the area. This is a first class state of the art system, financed entirely by Tim and available for use by all amateurs. He has spent innumerable hours promoting this new digital technology, not only in the installation process, but by speaking at Pacifcon (and anywhere else he finds an audience) and working with the coordinating body, NARCC, as well as the FCC regarding some very difficult coordination issues.

Jim Tittle, K6SOE, received the Ham of the Year award not only for his continuing work on the technical committee but for his dedication to the RACES group and hospital net where he was largely responsible for bringing them up to viable and active services.

Everyone went away happy and well fed. 

Election Notes

by Jeremiah R. Blasi, K6BQ

Elections for the 2007 offices of MDARC will be finalized during the regular business meeting on January 19, 2007. Each member should receive their ballot by mail prior to the meeting.

The offices will be listed, followed by the known candidate(s). An * following a name indicates an incumbent:

President: Marty Heyman,* W6MDH


Vice President: Sheldon Lawrence,* KI6ATA

Secretary: Paul Dickey,* N6JOX

Treasurer: Don Anthony, N6SIA

Director (2 positions open): Dave Gordon, N6SWE; Trevor Hall, WA6JAU; Jason Legate, W6SN


Emergency Coordinator: Bob Green, K6GD.

Support the club, and get to the meeting on January 19 to cast your ballot! 



For Sale

John Parks, W6JPP, has recently acquired a large variety of hobby electronics components from a Silent Key estate in Placerville. Included are resistors, diodes, transformers, rolls of copper for antenna making, transistors, pots, and the list could go on. He is selling these items for a very reasonable price to support the SK's estate. For more information, email John at w6jpp@arrl.net, or contact Andrew, KI6DSN.

If you have an amateur related item for sale that you would like to include in *The Carrier*, email carrier@mdarc.org. 


Volunteers Still Needed!

As you are well aware, volunteerism is the lifeblood of Amateur Radio and emergency communications. However, it has been said that 20% of the people volunteer for 80% of the jobs. Let's change that ratio this year and get everyone involved in something! There are several volunteer opportunities open for you right now. These are:

General class: This month, we will begin a class for those who aspire to upgrade to their General tickets. The class will be conducted on Tuesday evenings at the Salvation Army Corps in Concord. Volunteers are needed to help teach this class. This is a great opportunity to practice your Elmering skills! If you would be willing to help with one or more sessions, please contact Marty Heyman, W6MDH.

Public events coordinator: A volunteer is needed to help coordinate the public service events of the club. This volunteer would ensure that each event is staffed, as well as reporting on the status each month at the regular club meetings.

Volunteer Examiner: If you have your General class or higher license, you can get your VE credentials. To get a free copy of the VE guide with an open book test to complete, call 860-594-0200, or download it at www.arrl.org/arrlvec. It is a rewarding opportunity to help others get their license, and you can be a part of it! If you already have your VE credential, contact Ron Luttringer, K6XC, and tell him you want to volunteer.

Elmer: Do you have a special area of ham expertise? Do you want to help new hams get started? Then be an Elmer! You can help by sitting at the Elmer table at the club meetings. Don't worry if you don't have all the answers; you can at least point them in the right direction. 

MDARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2006

Fudruckers, 1940 N. Main St., Walnut Creek

President Marty Heyman W6MDH, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Other Board Members present: Vice-President Sheldon Lawrence, KI6ATA; Secretary Paul Dickey, N6JOX; Treasurer Dick Schulze, AA6DL; Directors Don Anthony, N6SIA, Trevor Raty, KG6MDW, and Bob Green, K6GD. Chairmen and other members present: Membership, Christina Johnson, KF6UXC; PACIFICON Info, Dick Brown, KT6X; Technical, Trevor Hall, WA6JAU, and Jason Legate, W6SN.

The minutes of the November 6 meeting were APPROVED as printed in the Carrier.

Treasurer Dick Schulze reported a balance of \$43,106.73, total of accounts, including three CDs. Dick also noted that expenditures were within budget. The Board approved membership expenditures over budget, due to previous year obligations, of \$77.31.

Committee Reports:

Pacificon: Dick Brown advised the Board that there were continued

discussions with the hotel regarding the contract payment and their proposed contract for 2008.

Membership: Christina reported two new members plus one returning member. Renewal letters went out December 1. The Board discussed uploading the membership information to the database.

Tech: Trevor Hall reported that the ATV repeater was working, but there are still problems in the receiver. The Lantronics will be installed on the Hill, possibly this next weekend. The Board discussed the telephone line. The line does not have to be connected at a residence. Trevor reported that the cost of a business line was \$22.95 per month, plus the \$17.10 phone line and a \$0.03 per minute charge. The Board discussed the use of Vonage as an alternative. Bob Green reported that some cables needed to be replaced. The \$1100 refund check was received from Henry. Trevor Raty will discuss usage of the


repeater site at Vollmer with the new owner, however an equipment list needs to be prepared. Trevor Hall reported that there have been so few contacts on 9600, that the equipment may be pulled.

The EC has moved to SF. Bob Green will be a candidate for EC.

Meetings: Don Anthony advised the Board that the prize at the December party on the 8th will be a radio, to be drawn from among the current Club membership.

Christina reminded the Board that the General class is due to start January 9, in Concord on Tuesday evenings. Marty reminded the Board that the facility, courtesy of the Salvation Army, would be available for a 6 to 12 week period, which could accommodate another class. The Board discussed the use of either the ARRL or the Gordon West texts. Trevor Hall will explore these with HRO.

Marty noted that a mail ballot would be sent for the election, and ballots counted at the January meeting.

President Marty adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m. 

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Dickey N6JOX, Secretary

2007 ARRL PR Theme

by Jeremiah R. Blasi, K6BQ

“GETTING THE MESSAGE THROUGH FOR YOUR FAMILY AND COMMUNITY...”

That's the message presented by the latest ARRL public relations brochure.

The FCC has clearly defined the purpose for the creation of the Amateur Radio service. In Part 97.1 (e) of the Commission's code, it is stated that one of the principles of amateur radio is the “continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.” Last year, the ARRL sponsored the popular theme “Hello,” seeking to promote amateur radio on the basis of this purpose—using radio for international and local communications to spread friendship and goodwill. That theme was so popular that the ARRL has decided to keep that website active. It is still a great place to send people who are interested in the magic of ham radio—www.hello-radio.org.

However, now we are in a new year, and a new theme is in order. To fill this need, the ARRL has based this year's PR focus on another of Part 97's purposes:

97.1 (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, *particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.* (emphasis added)

The theme for this year is a familiar phrase for many amateurs already involved in EMCOMM: *When all else*

fails...Amateur Radio!


The new brochure, which can be downloaded at www.arrl.org/pio/emcomm-broch.pdf, focuses on the simplicity of ham radio, which allows operators to communicate even under extenuating circumstances. In this age of cell phones, Instant Messaging, and Vonage, people tend to take communications for granted. However, they fail to take into account the complexity of those systems, which have many vulnerabilities. Unlike cellular technology, ham communication does not go through multiple switchboards and relays, which can fail. Rather, we use direct communication. Even under circumstances where we use repeaters,

they are often using emergency power, and are not dependent on the public infrastructure.

The publication lists events ranging from the Oklahoma City bombing of 1995 to the Hawaii earthquake of

2006. Hams have provided crucial communications during many of the disasters that assisted in saving many lives.

This brochure should serve to fill a vital role in our recruitment by emphasizing how amateur radio is different from other (also important) communications. You can get more information on this theme by accessing www.emergency-radio.org. At the time of this writing, that URL is still pointing to the hello-radio.org site, but it should be updated very shortly.

So, get out there, use the tools we have been provided, and promote ham radio! 



Membership Memo

Christina Johnson, KF6UXC
Membership Chair

Hi everyone! Hope you all are having a great New Year! I've been keeping busy with processing membership cards for the year and getting the ballots for this election ready. You should all receive your ballots by Monday (and membership card if your application/renewal was received by January 4). So far, we have 169 members for 2007, so including family members we are a club of 221 strong. YAY! If you haven't sent your renewal in, now would be a great time! You can always mail it in, or give them to me or the treasurer at a club meeting. The 2007 Club Directory will be published soon—possibly February—and you won't want to miss out on being included! See you on the 19th, and don't neglect to vote by mail or in person!

—73 de KF6UXC 

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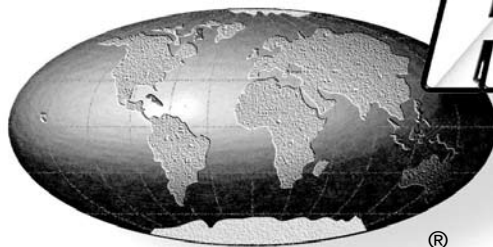
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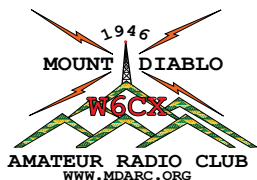
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January Events

<i>January 16</i>	7:00 pm	General Class begins <i>Salvation Army Corps, 3950 Clayton Rd., Concord</i>
<i>January 19</i>	7:30 pm	MDARC Monthly Meeting <i>Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Lafayette</i>
<i>January 31</i>		February Carrier Deadline
<i>February 5</i>	7:00 pm	MDARC Board Meeting <i>Fuddrucker's, 1940 N. Main St., Walnut Creek</i>



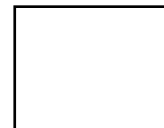
The Carrier

Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 23222

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Next meeting: January 19
